

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-17, 40-44, 46, 48-56, 76-80, 82, 84-92 are pending. Claims 6, 8, 18-39, 45, 47, 57-75, 81, 83, and 93-111 have been canceled.

Claims 1-111, with the exception of claims 8, 16, 47, 55, 83, and 91, were rejected. It is noted with appreciation, however, that claims 8, 16, 47, 55, 83, and 91 are deemed to be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form.

Without conceding the merits of the rejected claims and 91 and in order to conclude prosecution of the application in a timely manner, claims 8, 16, 47, 55, 83, have been amended as follows to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant acknowledges its right to pursue the claims presented during prosecution of the pending application, but which have not been allowed, in a subsequent continuation application.

Allowable Claim 8

Claim 8 depends from claim 6, which in turn depends from base claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6 and claim 8, and is therefore believed to be in allowable condition. Claims 6 and 8 have been canceled. Claims depending from claim 1 have been amended in order to preserve proper dependency.

Allowable Claim 16

Claim 16 depends from claim 1. Claim 16 has been rewritten in proper independent form by incorporating claim 1 as previously presented. Claim 16 is believed to be in allowable condition.

Allowable Claim 47

Claim 47 depends from claim 45, which in turn depends from base claim 40. Claim 40 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 45 and claim 47, and is therefore believed to be in allowable condition. Claims 45 and 47 have been canceled. Claims depending from claim 40 have been amended in order to preserve proper dependency.

Allowable Claim 55

Claim 55 depends from claim 40. Claim 55 has been rewritten in proper independent form by incorporating claim 40 as previously presented. Claim 55 is believed to be in allowable condition.

Allowable Claim 83

Claim 83 depends from claim 81, which in turn depends from base claim 76. Claim 76 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 81 and claim 83, and is therefore believed to be in allowable condition. Claims 81 and 83 have been canceled. Claims depending from claim 766 have been amended in order to preserve proper dependency.

Allowable Claim 91

Claim 91 depends from claim 76. Claim 91 has been rewritten in proper independent form by incorporating claim 76 as previously presented. Claim 91 is believed to be in allowable condition.

Amended Claim 49

Claim 49 has been amended to correct a typographical error introduced in the last response. Specifically, a portion of text was inadvertently omitted in an amendment to claim 49 that was made in the last response.

CONCLUSION

Applicant requests reconsideration and entry of the pending claims in view of the foregoing. Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

/George B. F. Yee/

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